

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An epidural catheter dispenser system, the system comprising:
at least one sidewall and having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end being
connected to a distal end piece, thereby defining an inner cavity;
wherein the proximal end defines a loading aperture such that a catheter may be loaded or
adjusted into the inner cavity through the loading aperture; and
wherein the distal end piece defines a dispensing aperture such that a loaded catheter in
the inner cavity can be extracted from the inner cavity through the dispensing
aperture.
2. (Original) The epidural catheter dispenser system of claim 1 wherein the sidewall's
proximal end is further connected to a proximal end piece, thereby further defining an inner
cavity,
wherein the proximal end piece defines a loading aperture such that a catheter may be
loaded or adjusted into the inner cavity through the loading aperture.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the dispenser can be no larger than a human
hand.
4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the dispenser can be no larger than a human
hand.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the dispenser is made of a semi-rigid
material.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the dispenser is positioned in either hand of a user such that the distal end is directed toward the user's thumb and index finger so that the catheter contained within the inner cavity may be completely extracted through the dispensing aperture;
7. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the sidewall takes the shape of a cone.
8. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the sidewall takes the shape of a cylinder.
9. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the sidewall takes the shape of a polyhedron.
10. (Original) The system of claim 1, 2, 3 or 4 wherein the inner cavity entirely confines the catheter except through the dispensing aperture.
11. (Original) The method of preventing contamination of an epidural catheter by loading a catheter in an epidural catheter dispenser system, the system comprising:
at least one sidewall, the sidewall being conical, cylindrical or polyhedral and having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end being connected to a distal end piece, thereby defining an inner cavity;
wherein the proximal end defines a loading aperture such that a catheter may be loaded or adjusted into the inner cavity through the loading aperture, and
wherein the distal end piece defines a dispensing aperture such that a loaded catheter in the inner cavity can be extracted from the inner cavity through the dispensing aperture.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the proximal end of the epidural catheter dispenser system's sidewall is connected to a proximal end piece, thereby further defining an inner cavity,

wherein the proximal end piece defines a loading aperture such that a catheter may be loaded or adjusted into the inner cavity through the loading aperture.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the epidural catheter dispenser system is no larger than the human hand.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the epidural catheter dispenser system is no larger than the human hand.

al 15. (Original) The method of claim 11, 12, 13 or 14 wherein the epidural catheter dispenser system is made of a semi-rigid material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 or 12 wherein the loading of the catheter into the epidural dispenser system is performed manually.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 or 12 wherein the loading of the catheter into the epidural dispenser system is performed mechanically.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11 or 12 wherein the loading of the catheter into the epidural dispenser system is performed through an automated process.

19-50. (Cancelled)
